



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Majority prices trended higher in the West; unchanged elsewhere. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm in the West, steady to fully steady in the Midwest, about steady in the East. Retail demand was light to moderate, fairly good for features; food service was moderate to good, best for fast food. Supplies were in good balance with smaller sizes closest and heavier weights more than sufficient. In the parts structure, trading was slow to moderate and selective. Breast items remained close to tight and well cleared. Wings were adequate to close. Dark meat items were available and instances slow to clear. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

Preliminary report of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 03/29/04-02/12/04 (cents per lb)

US GRADE A

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
(Including branded product)				
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	71.00-74.00	69.25-81.00	73.22	27
Los Angeles	79.00			
New York	75.00-77.00			
Southeast Area	FOB Dock Equivalent			
Mississippi	73.50-74.50	72.00-79.00	74.29	81

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 73.75 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
907	68.25-77.00	73.62
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
ITEM	WTD. AVG. (CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	252.00	1,259
BREASTS - B/S	226.50	5,503
BREASTS - WHOLE	121.00	1,827
THIGH MEAT - B/S	118.50	1,035
LEG QUARTERS	35.00	7,386
WINGS	129.50	2,987

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices for next week's deliveries into the Chicago area were unchanged when compared to Monday's majority. The market tone on whole broiler/fryers continues steady to fully steady. Additional offerings were light. Movement into retail channels was light to moderate. Food service trade was moderate, fairly good demand into fast food promotions. Floor stocks were adequate. Weights were desirable to at times heavy. Parts offerings were limited on white meat and wings. The market tone was fully steady to firm on white meat cuts and cautiously steady to weak on dark meat items.

SOUTHERN BROILER Trade sentiment was steady to at least steady entering the weekend. Demand was fair to moderate, best for fast food promotions and where limited retail features were active. Supplies were sufficient to closer balanced and clearing satisfactorily. In the parts structure, breast items were barely adequate to tight of an active call and moving well. Wings were sufficient and clearing. Dark meat items were available with limited interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS Preliminary majority prices were 1 cent higher than last Friday. The market tone was firm. Trading reported for next weeks' deliveries at occasionally unchanged to mainly higher prices. Offerings were easily adequate for the fair buyer interest. Retailer demand fair to fairly good best for parts and to cover feature activities. Dealers anticipated satisfactory weekend

clearances. Parts were about steady to firm with breast in the strongest position.

Ads noted (per pound unless otherwise stated):

Arizona – whole body 99-139, roaster 97, boneless breast 299-349, boneless breast marinated 349-399, boneless breast seasoned 349, split breast 139-259, thigh 79-129, drumstick 79-129;

Colorado – whole body 79, roaster 99, boneless breast 249, boneless breast marinated 399, split breast 199, thigh 99-129, drumstick 99-129, leg quarter 10# bagged 290,

(deli food service) – fried 8 piece mixed 499, hot wings 399-449 per pound);

Northern California – whole body 119, kosher roaster 169, boneless breast 399, boneless thigh meat 4# bagged IQF 596, whole legs 129-149, leg quarter 79, drumstick 149, thigh 149;

Southern California – whole body 59, Cornish hen 89, Cornish hen 22 ounce 2 for 500, boneless breast 177-399, boneless breast fillets 399, boneless breast 3# bagged IQF 499, boneless leg meat 99, boneless thigh meat 199, split breast 158, whole leg 88, leg quarter 77-89, leg quarter seasoned 99, leg quarters 10# bagged 390-490, thighs 79-169, thigh 4# bagged IQF 250, drumstick 59-169, drumstick 4# bagged IQF 250, wing 167,

(deli food service) - fried 8 piece drumstick and thigh 378, breast strips 449 per pound, hot wings 12 piece 378, whole rotisserie chicken each 499).

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYERS Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers increased entering the weekend but was mostly fair overall. Offerings of the 3 pound and lighter birds ranged balanced to adequate. The 3.5 to 4 pound sizes were at least sufficient. Retail and distributive movement was only fair at best. The market tone was about steady. In the parts complex, breast items and tenderloins were tight and commanding premiums. Dark meat lines were at least sufficient. Wings were adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYERS Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds increased entering the weekend and clearances were moderate to good. Offerings were generally adequate; however, some plants were short on the smaller sizes, others on the heavier. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights varied but were mostly desirable. Processing schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady. In the parts complex, supplies were adequate to well cleared. Breast items were in close balance; leg cuts and wings were fully adequate.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA.

BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	61-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	77.32
NO. OF BOXES	6,447
CUMULATIVE	77.05
	03/22/04-03/26/04
	03/24/03-03/28/03
NO. OF BOXES	34,040
	03/22/04-03/26/04
	03/24/03-03/28/03
	37,117

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

MAR 25

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

MAR 26

ITEM	POUNDS				POUNDS				WEEKLY	
	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	(000)	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	903	215.00-290.00	215-220	223.73	882	215.00-290.00	215-217	222.33	4,459	221.11
TENDERLOINS	223	235.00-278.00	235-237	240.47	238	235.00-278.00	235-237	240.13	1,100	239.18
BREAST - LINE RUN	105	114.00-127.00	114-116	116.95	95	114.00-127.00	114-116	115.89	455	115.34
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				297	110.37
LEGS	113	37.00-60.00	-	40.44	103	37.00-60.00	37-39	40.34	489	40.80
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	592	30.00-33.00	30-31	30.76	836	30.00-33.00	31-33	31.43	3,168	30.92
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	935	33.00-38.00	33-35	34.36	1,055	32.00-35.00	-	33.52	4,895	34.04
WINGS (WHOLE)	318	122.00-126.00	122-125	124.12	293	122.00-125.00	124-125	124.44	1,490	126.50
WINGS (CUT)	613	134.00-144.00	137-142	140.34	667	137.00-142.00	137-139	139.03	2,766	140.23
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				70	59.57
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				140	55.00
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				TOO FEW TO REPORT				505	114.27

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS*****
WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS

TRADING FOR MARCH 25, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.

TRADING FOR MARCH 26, 2004 F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
68.50 - 73.50	71.31

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
69.00 - 73.50	71.38	70.65

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS - Trucklot buying activity increased slightly entering the weekend but was mostly moderate overall. Offerings of breast items and tenderloins remained in close balance and continued to command premiums. Dark meat cuts were sufficient with b/s thighs adequate to available at times. Wings were generally adequate. Retail and distributive movement was about fair. Fast food draw was good. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm on breast items and tenderloins, barely steady on b/s thighs, mostly steady on the balance of cuts.

ICE PACKED B/F PARTS, DLVRD TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, CENTS PER LB. MAR 26

ITEM	CURRENT NEG			WTD	CURRENT NEG			WTD	WEEKLY
	TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		TRADING*	AVG**	VOL/LBS		
BREAST - B/S	220	211.86	647,920		220	217.53	549,946	210.49	3,272,869
TENDERLOINS	235	218.17	87,680		235	228.31	81,950	220.66	475,860
BREAST - WITH RIBS	114-115	117.99	129,720		114-115	118.48	191,920	117.64	645,000
BREAST - LINE RUN	114	114.93	108,040		114	116.62	121,920	115.26	550,400
LEGS	43-44	41.56	312,360		43-44	42.81	251,081	41.91	1,438,561
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	30.71	569,399		33-34	33.82	315,770	32.25	2,184,926
DRUMSTICKS	32-33	39.39	119,000		32-33	38.95	136,800	40.03	608,855
THIGHS	42-43	47.42	50,560		42-43	49.15	68,920	47.71	324,270
B/S THIGHS	111-112	110.26	83,560		110-111	109.62	38,280	110.14	328,510
WINGS (WHOLE)	116-117	126.88	141,720		116-117	127.23	87,120	126.01	604,400
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.07	30,920		10-12	11.92	24,200	11.91	155,120
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	30.84	18,880		35-40	28.72	20,320	31.38	80,360
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	57.39	10,040		55-60	55.94	30,440	59.19	96,960

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). * TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPE, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WT		ACTUAL		AVG WTS	
	03/26	03/25	03/24	03/23	03/24	03/23	03/19	03/17		
ALA	4,147	3,939	3,814	3,810	5.22	5.21	3,948	5.21		
ARK	4,972	5,333	4,968	5,260	5.01	5.02	4,740	4.97		
DELMARVA	2,104	2,180	2,074	2,123	5.43	5.54	1,977	5.39		
KY-LA-TN	1,879	1,943	1,901	1,852	4.97	4.97	1,914	4.98		
MISS	2,992	3,010	2,971	2,915	5.33	5.48	2,829	5.44		
NC	2,442	2,488	2,401	2,406	6.42	6.36	2,505	6.45		
TEXAS	2,289	2,292	2,401	2,301	5.07	5.16	2,414	5.06		
TOTAL	20,825	21,185	20,530	20,667	5.31	5.34	20,327	5.31		
MON-FRI	105,081 (A)				103,881 (A)					

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 26-Mar 04 and 27-Mar-04 is estimated to be 31,157,000 up 2.14 percent from a week ago and up 3.0 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,503,000; last year 30,235,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 27-Mar-04 is estimated to be 152,124,000 head down 1 percent from a week ago, and unchanged from a year ago.

(Last week 153,006,000 Last year 152,814,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	93-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	71-77
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	104-106
ICE PACK	102-103
ROASTERS 4# & UP	105-109
ICE PACK	109
HENS OVER 5#	93
ICE PACK	93-95
DUCKS	152-175

YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 13-Mar-04 (Preliminary),

(A) Fast food/ (B) Retail (C) Deboning
Food service
4.20 Lbs & down 4.21-5.25 Lbs 5.26 Lbs & Up

	THOUSANDS		
Head	34,478	21,485	47,775
Avg Weight	3.60	4.81	6.22
% of total /1	33%	21%	46%

COMPARISONS

Last week	25,738	21,046	49,219
Avg Weight	3.80	4.72	6.93
% of total /1	27%	22%	51%
Same week, yr ago /2	26,160	21,941	36,261
Avg Weight	3.71	4.83	6.21
% of total /1	31%	26%	43%

To date/2004	261,771	212,957	430,921
To date/2003	232,130	208,290	426,618

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.

(A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.

(B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.

(C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION W/E 20-Mar-04 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
HEAD	153,006	1,283	1,338	2,621	463
AVG WT	5.15	3.36	8.08	5.77	6.74
LAST WEEK	157,179	1,344	1,165	2,509	487
SAME WK YR AGO	153,022	1,597	1,280	2,877	411
AVG WT	5.09	3.40	7.89	5.27	6.32
TO-DATE/2004	1,689,638	14,020	13,984	28,004	5,031
TO-DATE/2003	1,655,032	18,224	14,924	33,148	4,615

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 158.6 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 154.9 million head or 3.7 million head less than or 98% of estimated fryers available.

GRAYSTONE SMALL ANIMAL AUCTION - MARCH 23, 2004

PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.05 - 1.10	Silkie	3.00 - 5.00 ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.90 - 1.00	Pigeons	3.00 - 4.00 ea.
Pekin Ducks	3.00 - 3.10 ea.	White Pigeons	4.85 - 5.00 ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.80 - .90	Rabbits	
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.90 - 1.00	4-6 LBS	1.30 - 1.60
Crossbred Roosters		Rabbits	
4-6 LBS	.90 - 1.00	6-9 LBS	1.20 - 1.30
Crossbred Roosters		Bunnies	5.00 - 12.00 ea.
7-11 LBS	.80 - .90	Guinea Pigs	3.50 - 9.00 ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.80 - 1.90	Goats	60.00 - 80.00 ea.
Banty Roosters	4.00 - 4.50 ea.	Kid Goats	20.00 - 35.00 ea.
Banty Hens	2.50 ea.	Doves	4.00 - 6.00 ea.
Leghorn Roosters	.75 - .85	Total Coops Sold	650

EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 22-MAR-2003

DUCKLINGS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	137-140	144-146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	124-128	125-130
MOSTLY		

ROASTERS: PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	76.00-79.00	76.00-77.50
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65.00-87.50	67.00-75.00
SQUABS: NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES		
12 OZ.	60.48-71.28	
14 OZ.	66.96-77.92	
16 OZ.	73.44-86.67	

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment mostly steady. Demand was fairly good to instances good. Schedules were full-time. Weights were in the desirable range. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.50, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 22-MAR-2003

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	107-124	125
MOSTLY		

ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.

WEEK ENDING	MILLION HEAD SLAUGHTERED	MILLION HEAD AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
FEBRUARY 14	154.4	158.5	97%	5.16
21	154.1	157.7	98%	5.05
28	154.6	156.8	99%	5.17
MARCH 6	155.3	156.2	99%	5.41
13	159.1	157.0	101%	5.06
20	154.9	158.6	98%	5.15
YEAR TO DATE	1710.3	1727.1	99%	
MARCH 27		158.0		
APRIL 3		156.9		

BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER

Under Federal Inspection					
THOUSANDS					
W/E	03/27/04	03/13/04	% CHG	03/29/03	% CHG
Broilers	152,124	153,006*	-01	152,814*	0
Cattle	620	619	0	625*	-01
Hogs	1,921	1,940	-01	1,912*	+01
*ACTUAL					

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Sales were too few to report on heavy canners. Light canners were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for lights; fair to moderate for heavies as most available supplies were being used internally. Limited offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.
CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

**LIGHT CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**
22.5-31 MAJORITY 25-26

**HEAVY CANNER HENS
(WITHOUT NECKS)**
TOO FEW TO REPORT

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

**LIGHT CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)**
25-32 MAJORITY 27-27.5

**HEAVY CANNER HENS
(WITHOUT NECKS)**
TOO FEW TO REPORT

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair to moderate. Offering of spent fowl were fully sufficient for trade needs. Processing schedules were normal. Opinions on removal cost were steady.
RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST 0-12 9-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Costs of disposal were too few to report. Demand for spent hens was light. Offerings remained fully adequate. Schedules were sufficient to cover a fair call for finished product. Values were expected to remain steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST TOO FEW TO REPORT

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Removal costs were unchanged to lower as the majority of reported spent fowl moved into traditional slaughter processors. Offerings were adequate while demand was mostly moderate. Opinions of value were steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
REMOVAL COST 0-7 4.5-5

HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) *

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 29-MAR-04

SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was mostly moderate. Offerings were at least adequate. Processing schedules were reported as normal for next week. Supplies of finished product were clearing satisfactorily. The undertone was steady to at least steady. **RANGE MAJORITY**

AT FARM BUYER LOADING TOO FEW TO REPORT
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING TOO FEW TO REPORT
FOB PLANT TOO FEW TO REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL LIVE HEAVY-TYPE HENS Negotiations were too few to report. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of heavy hens. Finished sales were moderate. Schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

RANGE MAJORITY
AT FARM BUYER LOADING TOO FEW TO REPORT

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants worked fairly heavy slaughter schedules. Demand was fairly good. Offerings were generally adequate.

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